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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

JOHN FINERON, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.

1955



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
(Councillor J.G. Gill)

Alderman C.H. Craddock  
Alderman A.L. Garratt  
Alderman F. Garratt  
Alderman W.F.L. Salloway  
Alderman C.W. Bridgeman  
Councillor S. Clarke

Councillor Mrs. F.E. Currie  
Councillor G.W. Deacon  
Councillor B.A. Garman  
Councillor F. Halfpenny  
Councillor H.P. Taylor

Medical Officer of Health  
C.E. Jamison, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector  
John Fineron, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.



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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
1955

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City and County of  
Lichfield.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the health of the City and, incidentally, on the work of the Health Department of the Council, during 1955.

The vital statistics showed only small changes as compared with previous years. Thus, the birth rate was rather lower, the death rate very slightly higher and the infant mortality rate slightly lower than in the previous year. After adjustment for age and sex composition of the population, the birth and death rates both compare favourably with those of England and Wales as a whole. The infant mortality rate, unfortunately, does not compare quite so favourably. Full details of these figures are contained in the body of the report.

Action by the Council in relation to unfit houses is, of course, one of its most important responsibilities. The most outstanding event in this field during 1955 was the completion of a survey of unfit houses in the City, following which the Council reported to the Minister of Housing and Local Government as to the programme of dealing with such houses which it felt it could, and should, achieve during the next 5 years. Details are given in this report of the programme undertaken by the Council, and of its acceptance by the Minister. Details are also given of action taken by the Council, in relation to unfit houses, during the year.

As regards infectious disease, the year was, on the whole, a good one, the incidence of all diseases except measles and tuberculosis being small. The continued high level of the latter disease is again disappointing. More encouraging is the fact that, for the second year in succession, no resident of the City died from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The commencement of the new sewage works at Curborough, forecast in my report for 1954, actually took place during the year. After initial difficulties, the work is now proceeding more satisfactorily. When completed, as it should be during 1957, the new works will eliminate what has been for years a potential danger to the health of the community. Other aspects of the sewerage of the City and matters relating to refuse collection and to the public swimming-bath are dealt with by the Surveyor in his section of this report.

Much attention was given by the Council during the year to smoke abatement, as a number of complaints were received regarding smoke pollution. As mentioned by the Sanitary Inspector under this heading, recent publicity, in the national press, has made the public much more conscious of the importance of this aspect of public health.

In concluding this introduction, I should like to thank all members and officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation, and particularly the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for their help in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1956.





## GENERAL STATISTICS

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, increased slightly as compared with the previous year. The figures relating to this and to the number of inhabited houses and the total rateable value are set out below:-

Area (in acres) ... ..	3,597
Estimated resident population according to Registrar General	10,980
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	3,110
Rateable Value ... ..	69,600
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£261.12.3

## VITAL STATISTICS

The principal statistics are set out below under the same headings as in previous years:-

Live Births -	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	86	90	176
Illegitimate ... ..	9	4	13
	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>189</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 Population - 17.2

Still Births -	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	3	1	4
Illegitimate ... ..	0	0	0
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

Still birth rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births - 20.7

Deaths - ... ..	Male	Female	Total
	71	61	132

Death rate per 1,000 Population - 12.0

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	3	5	8
Illegitimate ... ..	0	0	0
	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>

All infants per 1,000 Live Births -(Infant Mortality Rate) 42.3  
 Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births... 45.5  
 Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births... --

Deaths from Maternal Causes... ..	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	1

The following table shows how the figures of the more important statistics compare with those for the previous 9 years:-

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1946	9,082	21.0	11.7	44.7
1947	9,816	22.9	10.5	35.5
1948	10,170	20.5	10.9	38.4
1949	10,200	17.5	13.7	33.3
1950	10,400	16.2	10.5	65.0
1951	10,760	15.8	10.8	52.9
1952	10,870	15.7	10.1	11.6
1953	10,930	17.8	16.8	30.7
1954	10,930	20.1	11.8	45.4
1955	10,980	17.2	12.0	42.3





It will be seen that the birth rate was lower than in the previous year, the death rate slightly higher and the infant mortality rate very slightly lower. The considerable variations in the figures as a whole are, of course, due to the fact that, with the very small numbers involved, relatively small variations in the individual figures lead to disproportionately large differences in the rates.

Before comparing the vital statistics of the City with those of England and Wales as a whole, it is necessary to adjust the birth and death rates for the City to allow for differences of sex and age composition of the population as compared with those obtaining in the whole country. This adjustment has been made, in the light of information obtained from the Registrar General, in the following table:-

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.0	11.7	24.9
City and County of Lichfield	16.5	11.2	42.3

Compared in this way, it can be seen that the birth and death rates for the City are similar to those for the whole country, but that the infant mortality rate is, on this occasion, somewhat larger. In view of the considerations mentioned in my last paragraph, however, too great significance need not be attached to the figures for any one year.

#### DEATHS

The following table shows the causes of death during the year, figures for the two previous years being given for purposes of comparison

	Male	Female	Total 1955	Total 1954	Total 1953
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	-	1	1	-
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1	2	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	4	10	11	15
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1	2	1
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	6	17	13	30
Coronary disease, angina	10	3	13	7	13
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2	6	3
Other heart disease	8	8	16	22	22
Other circulatory disease	3	8	11	10	14
Influenza	1	1	2	1	-
Pneumonia	2	1	3	2	17
Bronchitis	6	5	11	5	16
Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	4	5	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	13	21	23	27
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	4	-
All other accidents	-	-	-	4	5
Suicide	-	-	-	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-
	71	61	132	129	184



As will be seen, 132 persons died in the City, as compared with 129 in 1954. Of the deaths, 87 occurred in persons over 70 years of age. If one adds together those deaths resulting from cancer in all its different forms and diseases of the heart and circulatory system, all due, in greater or less degree to ageing of the tissues of the body, and therefore less susceptible to preventive measures than other diseases, one finds that 71 of the 132 deaths were due to these types of disease.

It is again pleasing to record that no death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

The picture as regards accidents is also a relatively pleasing one on this occasion, as only one death resulted from a motor-vehicle accident, as compared with 4 such deaths in 1954, and no death from any other type of accident, again as compared with 4 such deaths in 1954.

The causes of death of infants dying before the end of their first year were as follows:-

Causes of Death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 1 year.	Total Deaths under 1 year of age.
Congenital Malformations	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	4
Prematurity	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute gastro-enteritis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	3	-	2	1	6	-	2	-	-	8

It will be seen that congenital malformations caused 4 deaths out of a total of 8 deaths and that a further 2 deaths were due to prematurity. Both causes are, of course, difficult to obviate by preventive measures, in the present state of medical knowledge.

#### HOUSING

The housing problem showed little change during the year. Thus, although 52 families were re-housed in new houses and flats and 30 families in relet houses and flats during the year, the waiting-list at the end of the year still contained over 400 applicants.

Some progress was made during the year in dealing with unfit houses, 6 vacated houses in an old Clearance Area in Lower Sandford Street being demolished. In addition, all but one of 6 houses recently acquired by the Council in Lombard Street have now been vacated, which will allow demolition to proceed in the near future.

Clearance procedure was completed during the year in relation to 30 houses in Gresley Row. Ten of these houses are already empty. The remaining tenants will be rehoused, and the property demolished, in due course.

In my report for 1954, I mentioned that a survey of unfit houses had been undertaken at the request of the Minister of Housing and Local Government in order that he might be informed as to the Council's plans for dealing with such houses during the next 5 years. This survey was completed during 1955. Fitness or unfitness was judged according to the standard laid down in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. It was reported that 36 properties in Clearance Areas declared in 1939 had still to be cleared, though 8 of the houses were already empty at the time of the survey. In addition, the Council was at the time awaiting confirmation of the Clearance Area in respect of 30 houses, mentioned





in my last paragraph. It was also reported that informal action would probably be required in respect of 60 houses and formal action in relation to a further 34 houses. Taking all these groups together, it appeared that the Council would need to deal with a total of 160 unfit houses in the five-year period. The Council accepted this estimate, and submitted it as a proposal to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, who has now approved it. No comment is necessary to indicate the size of the task which lies ahead of the Council if it is to implement its responsibility in relation to unfit houses.

Apart from the responsibility mentioned above, the Council has, of course, a responsibility in respect of improvement grants which can be given for the improvement of fit houses under the Housing Act, 1949, in order to encourage owners to bring certain classes of houses up to reasonable standards of amenities and sanitation. Seven claims were made during the year, of which 2 were refused, one withdrawn and grants given in respect of four. The total value of work involved, in those cases receiving grant, was £3734, towards which the Council contributed 50%, £1867.

#### CARE OF THE AGED

The proportion of the aged in the population as a whole continues to increase, as is generally known, from year to year. This makes it all the more regrettable that both suitable housing and hospital beds are scarcer for this section of the community than any other. There appears to be reason to hope that the position in relation to the former will be substantially improved when the Council's plans are implemented. The need for an increased number of hospital beds, particularly for women, remains acute, and without any visible solution. Home circumstances of patients on the waiting list for beds available for the chronic sick were investigated, at the request of the local Hospital Management Committee, in order to ensure that the social as well as the medical circumstances would be considered in allocating those beds available.

The domiciliary nursing and home help services were used in appropriate cases to help those in need of them to live more comfortable lives than would otherwise have been possible and, in many cases, to delay or obviate the need for hospital admission. These statutory services, provided by the County Council, were supplemented in many useful ways by voluntary work carried out under arrangements co-ordinated by the Lichfield Old People's Welfare Committee.

The provisions of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951, relating to compulsory removal to hostel or hospital, did not, fortunately, need to be used during the year.

#### PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

##### Veneral Diseases

Arrangements for the diagnosis, treatment and surveillance of persons suffering from these diseases remain the same as those outlined in earlier reports.





# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows details of cases of these diseases notified in 1955, as compared with those notified during the two previous years:-

Nature of Case	Total 1953	Total 1954	Total 1955	Male	Female	Age Distribution	Death
Measles	248	--	127	65	62	Under 1.. 2 1-2 .. ..24 3-4 .. ..28 5-9 .. ..70 10-14. .. 2 Unknown.. 1	--
Whooping Cough	86	--	2	1	1	5-9 .. .. 2	--
Pneumonia	15	1	4	3	1	45-65 .. 2 Over 65.. 2	3
Scarlet Fever	1	--	2	1	1	3-4 .. .. 1 5-9 .. .. 1	--
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	8	4	--	4	--	--
Poliomyelitis							
Paralytic	--	--	1	1	--	3-4 .. .. 1	--
Non Paralytic	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dysentery	1	--	7	5	2	Under 5.. 6 15-44 .. 1	--
Food Poisoning	1	--	--	--	--	--	--

It will be seen that, with the exception of measles, the incidence of the diseases in question was low. The marked variation in the number of cases of measles from year to year is, of course, characteristic of the disease. The cases of dysentery were all of the mild Sonne type, and all occurred in a local residential nursery.

## Pemphigus Neonatorum

A small outbreak of pemphigus neonatorum, a skin disease affecting newly-born children, occurred during the year in a local maternity unit. In view of the fact that the disease can assume a serious form, stringent precautions were taken to prevent further spread of infection. No death resulted from the infection, and no extensive spread occurred.



# TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and of the one death resulting from the disease, during the year:-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 10 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 20 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 30 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 to 40 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 to 50 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 and over	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
	3	4	1	-	-	-	1	-

As will be seen, most of the new infections occurred either in children under 10 years of age or in persons over 50 years of age, a rather different picture from that obtaining in earlier years.

Figures showing the number of new cases and deaths from the disease during the past 10 years, are set out below for purposes of comparison:-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1946	5	1	3	1	2	1	-	-
1947	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	-
1948	6	7	2	-	2	3	-	-
1949	9	5	2	-	1	3	-	-
1950	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-
1951	1	3	3	1	-	1	1	-
1952	5	1	-	4	2	1	-	-
1953	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
1954	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
1955	3	4	1	-	-	-	1	-





The slight increase in the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is again disappointing, and again illustrates that the disease, though in theory preventable, is not yet being prevented. It can be claimed, however, that the disease is now being sought out more vigorously than in earlier years, and that cases are therefore tending to come under treatment in the earlier stages. The greatly reduced mortality in recent years is no doubt partly due to this fact as well as to the greatly increased efficiency of modern medical treatment.

The decreased incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis shows the beneficial result of heat-treatment of milk, as a great deal of the non-pulmonary disease, though not all, is due to the bovine type of organism. During the year, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food made a statutory order requiring all milk, other than milk from tuberculin tested cows, distributed in the City to be heat-treated before sale.

Arrangements for examination of contacts and supervision of patients and contacts remained as outlined in earlier reports. B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible contacts was carried out under arrangements made by the Chest Physician.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### Laboratory Facilities

These remain as in previous years, full facilities for bacteriological and chemical examinations being made available, and valuable advice and co-operation being given, on appropriate occasions.

#### SPECIMEN

				Normal	Abnormal	Total
SWABS:--	Throat	...	...	7	--	7
	Nose	...	...	2	--	2
SPUTA	...	...	...	79	6	85
WATER	...	...	...	5	4	9
FAECES	...	...	...	70	6	76
VAGINAL	...	...	...	1	--	1
URINE	...	...	...	4	--	4
FLUID FROM BURSA...	...	...	...	1	--	1
PLEURAL FLUID	...	...	...	1	--	1
PUS	...	...	...	2	--	2

### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

The position as regards admission of the aged chronic sick has already been discussed in an earlier paragraph. Hospital beds appeared to be readily available for all maternity patients requiring them on either medical or social grounds. As regards patients suffering from infectious diseases, many more are now nursed at home than in earlier years. Those who required hospital treatment were admitted to hospitals in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Hospital beds for tuberculous patients were obtainable much more readily than was the case some years ago.

### PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The ambulance, home help, domiciliary nursing and maternity and child welfare services continued under the administration of the County Council.



## WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the City is, of course, provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and distributed by Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust. There have been no extensions during the year, apart from those required for the supply of new houses and for the extension of existing supplies in cases where bathrooms and indoor lavatories had been installed. The latter type of extension included two instances in which additional washing facilities were provided at foodshops for the use of employees.

All samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory in quality.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

I am indebted to Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer to Staffordshire County Council for the following information as regards the results of sampling undertaken in Lichfield by the Sampling Officer of the County Council.

Nature of Food	Number of Samples Taken	Findings on Examination
Milk		
Milk, Pasteurised	12	Genuine
Milk, Pasteurised, T.T.	6	Genuine
Milk, Pasteurised, Chan. Is.	3	Genuine
Milk, Sterilised	7	Genuine
General Foods		
Beans in Tomato, Butter,		
Capers, Corned Beef,		
Cheese, Coffee and		
Chicory Essence, Cream,		
Custard Powder, Ginger		
Cordial, Currants, Dripping,		
Flan Mixture, Self-Raising		
Flour, Glace Cherries,		
Gherkins, Lard, Margarine,		
Steak & Kidney Pie,		
Pineapple Pièces, Tomato		
Puree, Raisins, Rice,		
Creamed Rice, Spice, Sponge		
Cream Mixture, Sausages,		
Sultanas, Tea, Vinegar,	1	Not Genuine
Xmas Pudding.	41	Genuine

The sample not up to standard was one of pork sausage, which contained 56.5% of meat, being 8.5% deficient of its proper content of meat. The offending retailer was cautioned.

The following results are given of examinations of milk, carried out in connection with the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:-





Grade of Milk	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Efficient Pasteurisa- tion)		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisa- tion)		Biological (Tuber- culosis)	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Posit.
T.T.	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Accredited	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.T. (Past.)	32	2	37	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	43	2	49	-	-	-	2	-
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-
Undesignated	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	79	4	86	-	36	-	7	-

It is pleasing to note that the results compare favourably with those obtained in other parts of the country, all being satisfactory except the 4 samples which failed to pass the cleanliness test. Even here, the proportion of unsatisfactory samples is smaller than is often found in such results.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following tables show the results of inspections carried out under the Factories Act, 1937.

##### 1.--Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
90	84	4	Nil

##### 2. Defects Found and Action Taken

Particulars of Defect	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Defects Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	1	Nil
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
No certificate as to means of escape in case of fire	-	-	-	-
Emission of fumes	-	-	-	-
Total	5	5	1	Nil





## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor  
Mr. D. Oglesby, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.

### 1. Sewerage

#### (a) Foul Sewerage

During the last year approximately 1,000 yards of 21" diameter trunk sewer was scraped and cleaned and approximately 20 tons of silt and deposit were removed. Only isolated flooding, and that in small amounts, has been experienced on Birmingham Road during the year, largely at the bottom of Ivanhoe Road. The nuisance caused by objectionable smells emanating from the sewer from the Gas Works has diminished considerably during the year and the production of gas has now ceased at the Gas Works. I am therefore hopeful that no complaints will be received this year.

#### (b) Surface Water Sewerage

Curborough Brook, which takes the majority of the surface water from the City, has been diverted to a new and straighter line from the back of St. Chad's Churchyard. It is hoped that this will facilitate the disposal of water. The St. John Street Sewer has been approved by the Staffordshire County Council, who have agreed to contribute £1397 towards the cost of this work. The scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, but loan sanction has been withheld. It is hoped that a further approach to the Ministry might allow this urgently needed scheme to proceed.

### 2. Sewage Disposal Works

Every effort is being made to maintain the existing Works as efficiently as possible. Progress on the new Works is almost up to schedule, although on one section of the Works it is in advance of schedule. With reasonable weather during the forthcoming Winter, the Works should be completed by the end of April 1957.

### 3. Public Baths

The City Council have had a modified scheme of improvement prepared by a firm of private Architects and have submitted this, together with estimates, to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. They were informed that the work could not be approved at the present time. An attempt, however, is to be made to enlist the aid of the Lichfield Conduit Lands so that this work can be carried out during the Autumn. If this scheme is permitted to proceed, all the objections to the present Bath will be removed.

### 4. House Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service has proceeded efficiently throughout the year and every attempt is being made to remove house refuse, even from the outlying properties, on a weekly basis.

Tip Dressing was applied at the beginning of the season at the Tip. No complaint was received of fly nuisance.





## SANITARY INSPECTORS REPORT

### General Inspection of District -----

Although the position in regard to labour and materials shows no appreciable improvement, more repair work was done during the past year than in any since 1939. It appears that rising costs are now almost accepted as an inevitable condition of the post-war period. During the year no fewer than 155 complaints were dealt with. The majority of these were concerned with dampness caused by leaking roofs and defective eaves-guttering and rainwater pipes. Several reinspections in connection with repair work are usually necessary before notices are complied with. Of the 84 Intimations served during the year, 80 were complied with and only 4 Statutory Notices were required.

### HOUSING INSPECTIONS

The preliminary survey of sub-standard houses to be dealt with during the next five years was completed. This instalment represents only a small proportion of old property in the City but it included as many houses as could be cleared during that period. The estimate was based on the probable number of new houses which are likely to be available for replacements. Few owners are interested in the provisions which have been made in the Housing Acts for giving financial aid in the structural improvement of occupied houses. Only occupier/owners seem disposed to avail themselves of the Grants which are payable in respect of added amenities. The tendency still seems to be to sell all houses which become vacant. It appears, therefore, that the time will come when many houses now under private ownership will be either occupied by their owners or controlled by the Local Authority. The survey of old property is being continued so as to determine what proportion of those houses remaining would have a minimum life sufficient to justify structural improvements. Others will be repaired to keep them reasonably habitable until clearance procedure can be applied. When it is realized that some houses in Clearance Areas confirmed in 1939 are still occupied, the need for stepping up the rate of re-housing becomes self-evident. Only one application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair under Section 26 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This application was granted.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

Recent publicity concerning atmospheric pollution in some of the larger centres of population has focused attention on the need for vigilance in all districts. At present the degree of pollution from industrial processes in the City is relatively small, but with the prospect of expansion there is a growing need for preventive measures. Apart from the cumulative effects of heavy pollution caused by some industrial installations, there is the question of nuisance which invariably arises when factories are in close proximity to dwelling-houses. During the year 28 observations were made on boiler chimneys in the district. Smoke in such quantities as to be a nuisance, within the meaning of the Public Health Act, was noticed in 8 cases. The proprietors were notified in each instance, and the measures taken resulted in appreciable improvements. In one case arrangements had been made for the installation of a mechanical stoker which was designed to operate with the minimum production of smoke. Some owners complained of the poor quality of fuel, while others pointed out that even when the coal supplied was of reasonable quality, it was sometimes not suited to the particular method of stoking. Some mechanical stokers require fuel of a special grade to ensure maximum efficiency. Most of the proprietors seem willing and anxious to co-operate in keeping down the volume of smoke, since it is now generally realised that - apart from the question of nuisance - excessive smoke is really partially consumed fuel which could be saved by appropriate methods of stoking.





## INSPECTION OF CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Routine inspections of equipment and methods were continued at catering places in the City including canteens attached to factories. As the Food Hygiene Regulations were still under consideration, few requirements regarding structural improvements were made, as it was known that the new Regulations would be more comprehensive in scope than previous legal provisions. Experience shows that systematic inspections of food premises are necessary to ensure proper standards of hygiene. In this work a great deal depends upon the human element, which means that constant supervision is desirable, particularly in establishments where several assistants are employed.

## INSPECTION OF SHOPS

One firm complied with an Intimation requiring the provision of suitable facilities for members of the staff taking meals on the premises. Two Notices served for the provision of seats for female assistants were complied with. A number of investigations were made respecting Hours of Work by assistants, especially at premises where young people are employed. Four Intimations were served in regard to Sunday Trading. These provisions of the Shops Acts are difficult to administer because of exemptions. Some shops stock a proportion of goods to which the restrictions of Sunday Trading do not apply.

## RODENT CONTROL

During the year 42 complaints of infestation by rats were received and dealt with by the Rodent Operative. These included 5 trade premises and 37 private houses. The work of extermination at dwelling-houses is carried out free of cost, while the only charge made for work at trade premises is to cover the cost of labour and materials. Two fairly extensive infestations by mice at food premises were successfully dealt with. The difficulties associated with rodent control in the City are aggravated by the number of premises which harbour rats by reason of faulty construction. In other cases accumulations of rubbish are responsible for providing harbourage, making it difficult to secure complete control of rodent trouble. In two cases Notices were served requiring the removal of accumulations known to harbour rats.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Although 5 of the private slaughter-houses in the City are licensed, only 3 are in regular use. The quality of meat continues to be good. Equally satisfactory standards have been noticed in the meat supplied by wholesalers, and there have been appreciable improvements in the methods of delivery, which are still kept under regular observation. During the year the following carcasses and organs were inspected.

Bovines	200
Sheep	604
Pigs	426
Calves	3



The undermentioned articles of food were surrendered for destruction:-

A

24 tins Apricots

B

27 tins Beans  
1 tin Beef Steak Pudding  
4 tins Beef & Vegetables  
3 tins Beef Loaf  
13 lbs. Beef Sausage  
138 lbs. Beef  
33 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Beef Trimmings  
7 Bovine Livers

C

1 packet Cheese Spread  
159 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Cheese  
3 tins Crab  
17 tins Corned Beef  
4 tins Cherries  
2 jars Cabbage  
1 tin Coffee

D

2 tins Dog Meat

E

30 tins Evaporated Milk

F

3 tins Fruit  
52 Fish Cakes

G

5 tins Grapefruit  
1 tin Gooseberries  
2 tins Groats

H

1 tin Herrings  
1 tin Herrings in Tomato  
4 tins Ham  
14 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Cooked Ham

L

3 tins Luncheon Meat  
6 lbs. Luncheon Meat  
1 tin Lemon Curd  
2 bottles Lemon Squash

M

13 tins Milk

O

12 tins Oranges  
54 gallons Orange Juice  
1 tin Orange Juice  
1 jar Onions  
4 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs Ox Tongue

P

8 tins Peaches  
8 tins Pears  
27 tins Pineapple  
7 tins Plums  
2 lbs. Prunes  
38 tins Peas  
6 tins Pork Luncheon Meat  
90 lbs. Pork Sausage  
6 tins Pilchards  
11 Pigs' Livers  
20 Pigs' Heads

R

3 tins Raspberries

S

1 Drum Salt  
2 tins Syrup  
7 tins Stewed Steak  
1 tin Strawberries  
12 tins Soup  
1 Sheep Carcase  
7 tins Salmon  
2 tins Sardines  
2 tins Steak  
32 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Sausage  
1 tin Cooked Shoulder

T

199 tins Tomatoes  
66 lbs. Tomatoes

V

2 tins Jellied Veal  
6 lbs. Jellied Veal  
6 tins Pressed Veal

